THE SHATTERED EARTH CHRONICLES

12 ETERNITY

$1.95/$2.50 in Canada

An Ex-Mutants Universe Title

THE NEW HUMANS

NEW HUMANS

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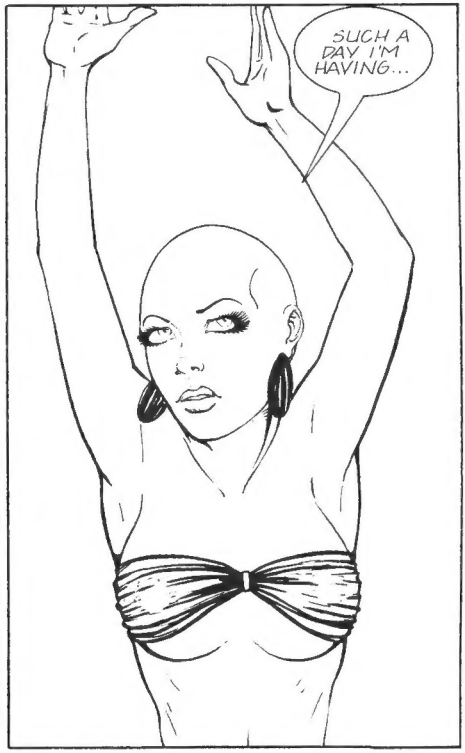

The New Humans: Placed in suspended animation by the United States government as part of the top secret Jupiter Project, Duke Goldberg, Kelly Brock, Calvin Gordon, and Roger Brunner awaken 30 years later to discover a world filled with deadly radiation; its inhabitants mutated victims of the most deadly war mankind has ever fought.

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NOW I'M OFF.
IF I'M OFF, HOW COME I CAN THINK ?
I DON'T WANT TO THINK. GIVE ME SOMETHING TO DO !
NOW I CAN SEE. WHO ARE THEY ?
I THINK THEY USED TO BE MY FRIENDS, WHEN I WAS STILL ALIVE.
THE METHUSELAH SOCIETY, PART TWO
MEAT PUPPET
JIVKO
1.

I REMEMBER NAMES.
ROGER.
KELLY.

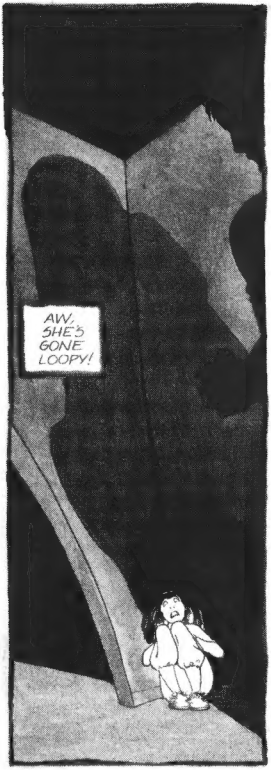
WHO'S THAT?

IT'S... JODI. SHE'S MY WIFE.
SHE'S A BITCH.

SHE DOESN'T GIVE ME WHAT SHE WANTS. SHE JUST WANTS TO STAB ME IN THE BACK!
SMAK

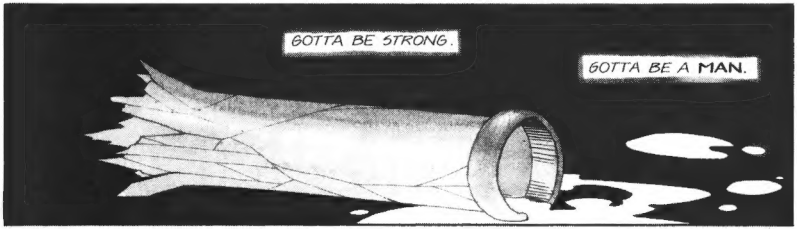
A WOMAN'S GOT TO KNOW HER PLACE.

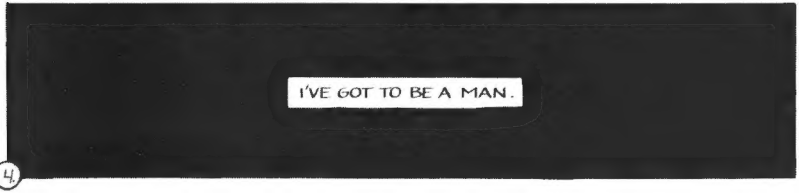
WOMAN ARE SECOND BEST. THEY SHOULD TAKE WHAT YOU GIVE THEM AND LIKE IT.
KRACK
ALWAYS STABBING YOU IN THE BACK... NEVER KNOW THEIR PLACE...
KRAK
NOW SHE'S **REALLY** GONNA GET IT
DAMNIT, JODI -- WHY AREN'T THE KIDS IN BED ?!?
SAFE


AW. SHE'S GONE LOOPY!

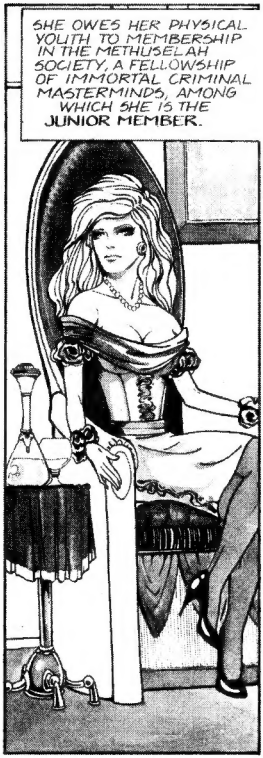
THEY SURE DON'T MAKE WOMEN LIKE THEY USED TO. THE GOING GETS ROUGH AND MISS DIM BULB GOES OUT LIKE A LIGHT.

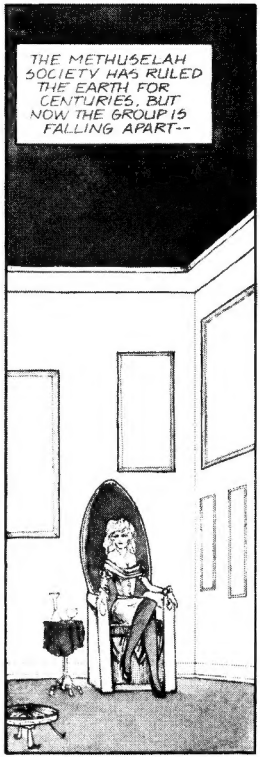
WEAK. WOMEN ARE ALL **WEAK**. THAT'S WHAT MAKES THEM **WOMEN**.

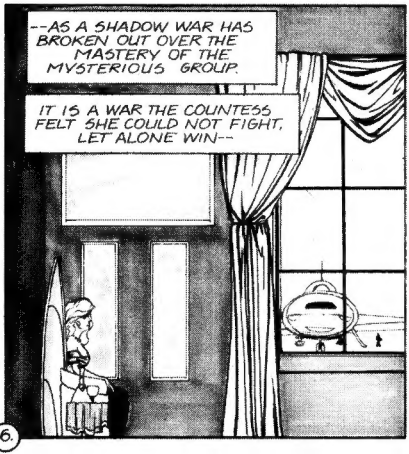

GOTTA BE STRONG.
GOTTA BE A **MAN**.

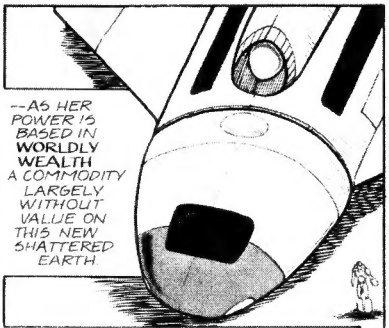

I'VE GOT TO BE A MAN.

I'VE GOT TO BE A MAN.
WHY CAN'T I MOVE ?
WHY DID KELLY DO THIS TO ME ?
REALLY, I'M NOT UPSET AT ALL. I'M GRATEFUL FOR THE COMPANY.
YOU'RE SURE ? BECAUSE WE NATURALLY ASSUMED THIS PLACE WAS ABANDONED-- WE WERE LOOKING FOR A PLACE TO RELAX.
WE WOULDN'T HAVE LANDED HERE IF WE'D KNOWN...
JUST AS MY BOYS WOULDN'T HAVE SET UPON YOU IF THEY KNEW YOU CAME IN PEACE. IT'S ALL A MISUNDERSTANDING.
BUT IT'S A DELICIOUS MISUNDERSTANDING. YOU MUST HAVE SO MANY STORIES TO TELL. COME WITH ME TO THE HOUSE -- WE'LL HAVE A DRINK.
CAN NEVER TRUST A WOMAN...





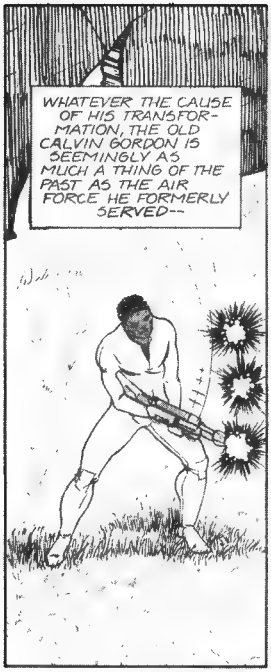


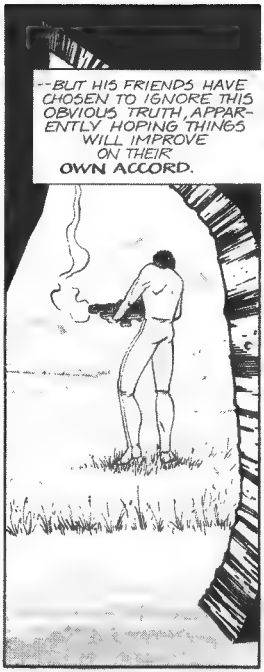


BUT NOW FATE HAS DELIVERED THE NEW HUMANS INTO THE COUNTESS' HANDS, AND WITH A BIT OF LUCK THESE HEROES FROM THE PAST -- AND THEIR ADVANCED TECHNOLOGY -- MAY SERVE AS CROESUS' SOLDIERS IN HER WICKED WAR.

MANIPULATING THESE "NEW HUMANS" WILL BE RISKY.
BUT THERE IS NOTHING COUNTESS CROESUS WOULD NOT RISK TO GAIN MASTERY OF THE METHUSELAH SOCIETY...
FOR WITH CONTROL OF THE GROUP COMES NOT ONLY CONTROL OF THE SOCIETY'S POWERFUL MEMBERS--
--BUT ALSO THE SECRET OF IMMORTALITY, THROUGH WHICH THE REMARKABLE LONGEVITY OF THE SOCIETY'S MEMBERS IS MADE POSSIBLE.
BRIEFLY, COUNTESS CROESUS WONDERS WHY THE SOCIETY'S LEADER WISHES TO ABDICATE HIS POSITION AFTER SO MANY CENTURIES.
IN THE COLD LIGHT OF DAY IT SEEMS UNLIKELY A MAN SO DRIVEN BY POWER SHOULD ABRUPTLY TIRE OF IT. AND OF LIFE AS WELL, MUCH LESS WILLINGLY RELENQUISH CONTROL OF A GROUP THAT HAS BEEN HIS LIFE'S WORK.
BUT SUCH DOUBTS ARE QUICKLY PUT ASIDE WHEN THE COUNTESS THINKS FOR BUT A MOMENT OF THE INCREDIBLE POWER NOW WITHIN HER GRASP.
NOW, DEAR, YOU MUST TELL ME YOUR STORY.
OH HOW I'VE MISSED HAVING NEIGHBORS!

COUNTESS CROESUS' CALIFORNIA MANSION COVERS DOZENS OF ACRES...
KABLAM
...LARGE ENOUGH TO ENSURE A BIT OF INFORMAL TARGET PRACTICE ESCAPES THE NOTICE OF THE COUNTESS AND HER SERVANTS.
CALVIN GORDON HAS ALWAYS BEEN KNOWN TO HIS FRIENDS AS A GENTLE WARRIOR.
FREAKY BALD CHICK SLAPS MY FACE...
A THOUGHTFUL YET DELIBERATE SOLDIER, FULLY MINDFUL OF THE FALSE HONOR THAT IS THE CONSEQUENCE OF A MILITARY CAREER.
NOW THAT CALVIN GORDON IS GONE, REPLACED BY A TERRIBLE BIOLOGICAL MECHANISM ENTIRELY WITHOUT REMORSE OR CONSCIENCE--
GONNA CUT HER, GONNA BLAST HER.
A SUDDEN TRANSFORMATION PERHAPS DUE TO THE UNHOLY SURGERY THE FORMERLY GOOD MAN SUFFERED AT THE HANDS OF THE SAUCER MEN OF ATLANTIS.


WHATEVER THE CAUSE OF HIS TRANSFORMATION, THE OLD CALVIN GORDON IS SEEMINGLY AS MUCH A THING OF THE PAST AS THE AIR FORCE HE FORMERLY SERVED--


--BUT HIS FRIENDS HAVE CHOSEN TO IGNORE THIS OBVIOUS TRUTH, APPARENTLY HOPING THINGS WILL IMPROVE ON THEIR OWN ACCORD.

BUT THERE IS ONE NEW HUMAN WHO KNOWS CALVIN WONT GET BETTER.

ANY MORE THAN AN ALCOHOLIC ABRUPTLY DRIES UP OR AN ADDICT JUST SAYS NO.
WHILE THE OTHERS IGNORE THE PROBLEM AND HOPE IT WILL GO AWAY, IT IS THE BATTLE DOG CHIP WHO DECIDES TO ACT.

WHAT ?!?
I HAAVE A BONE TOOO PICK WITH YOUU
LEMME UP--
YOUUU WILLL LIST-EN ORRR YOUUU WILL DIE.
BE-FORE I WASS A BEAST, I WASS A MANN--
--AND FISH WASSS MMY WIFE.

I CAN NO LONGER BEEE HERRR MAAAN--
--AND I AC-CEPT THAT.
BUT I STILLL LOVE HERR.
YOU LOOKED AT HERR LIIKE A SLAAB OF MEAT.
I CAN NOT FOR-GET THAAT.
FROM NOWWW ON YOU WILLL SHOWW RE-SPECT.
I WILLL NOTT WARRN YOUUU A-GAIN.

FOR THE FIRST TIME SINCE SHE LAY DOWN FOR A **LONG SLEEP** IN HOUSTON, TEXAS--

--DR. KELLY BROCK IS IN HER ELEMENT.

BENEATH HER SOMEWHAT DISHEVELED EXTERIOR, KELLY IS EVERY INCH THE DAUGHTER OF BOSTON INTELLECTUALS--

--A PRODUCT OF EAST'S FINEST FINISHING SCHOOLS, IN ADDITION TO BEING THE WORLD'S FOREMOST EXPERT IN **CRYOGENIC TECHNOLOGY**

SHE DIDN'T REALIZE HOW MUCH SHE'S MISSED THE COMPANY OF PLEASANT SOCIETY

TRY AS SHE MIGHT, KELLY'S NEVER FELT AT HOME IN A WORLD OF MUTANTS, MOHAWKS, AND MAYHEM.

BUT NOW, SUDDENLY RETURNED TO A WORLD OF POLITE CONVERSATION AND **SCOTCH AND WATER** IN THE AFTERNOON, KELLY FINDS IN COUNTESS CROESUS A KINDRED SOUL --

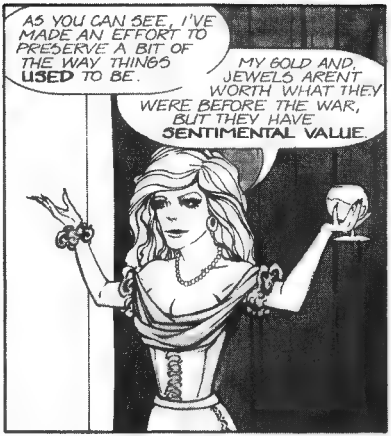
--AND IT SEEMS, A **FRIEND.**

REALLY, I'VE TALKED ENOUGH ABOUT MYSELF...

NO, KELLY, NOT AT ALL. PLEASE GO ON. YOUR ADVENTURES HAVE BEEN SO EXCITING!

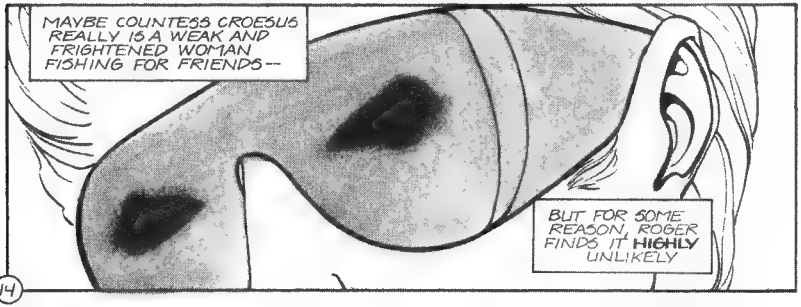
I SUPPOSE OUR STORY IS REMARKABLE-- EVEN BY THE STANDARDS OF THESE TIMES.
WE CERTAINLY NEVER INTENDED TO BE TIME TRAVELERS WHEN WE ENTERED COLD SLEEP THIRTY YEARS AGO.
EVEN MORE REMARKABLE WAS LOCATING MY OWN SON, WHO WAS OF COURSE AN INFANT WHEN LAST I SAW HIM.
YOUR SON?
YES, EMMANUEL CUGAT OF NEW YORK
CUGAT?
HE'S MADE QUITE A NUMBER OF REMARKABLE STRIDES IN GENETICS-- CARRYING ON THE WORK OF MY LATE HUSBAND, DR. ALEXANDER CUGAT.
NOW THAT NAME RINGS A BELL. HE WORKED WITH ADAM CARVER--
AT THE GENETICS RESEARCH INSTITUTE. THAT'S THE ONE.
SO DELIGHTED IS KELLY FOR SCORING POINTS IN HER GOSSIP, THAT SHE FAILS TO FIND IT STRANGE THAT YOUNG COUNTESS CROESUS IS FAMILIAR WITH A MAN WHO HAS BEEN DUST FOR MORE THAN TWENTY YEARS --
-- BUT ROGER DOES NOTICE, AND ALSO WONDERS--
-- AT WHAT OTHER SECRETS THIS "COUNTESS" MIGHT GUARD. WHO WOULD SO CRUELLY DISPLAY NATURE'S BEAUTY FOR HER OWN SELFISH PLEASURE?

I HAVEN'T BEEN ENTIRELY HONEST WITH YOU
AS MUCH AS I'VE ENJOYED OUR VISIT, I WAS HOPING YOU COULD HELP ME.

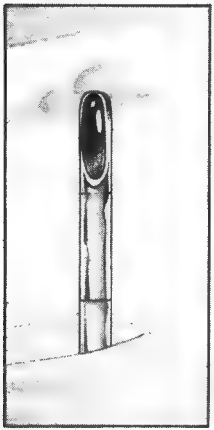

AS YOU CAN SEE, I'VE MADE AN EFFORT TO PRESERVE A BIT OF THE WAY THINGS USED TO BE.
MY GOLD AND JEWELS AREN'T WORTH WHAT THEY WERE BEFORE THE WAR, BUT THEY HAVE SENTIMENTAL VALUE.

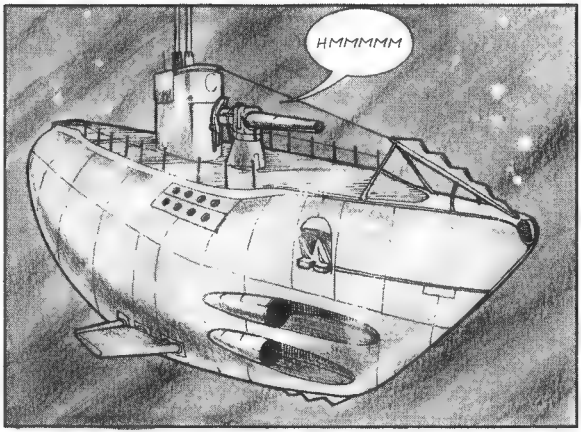
I'VE RECENTLY RECIEVED CERTAIN THREATS --
MAYBE THERE'S NOTHING TO THEM, BUT I'M ALL ALONE HERE, JUST ME AND MY BOYS.

DON'T GIVE IT ANOTHER THOUGHT. WE'LL STAY UNTIL THE TROUBLE IS PAST. I'LL HAVE CALVIN AND FISH POKE AROUND A BIT. THEY MIGHT EVEN WELCOME THE ADVENTURE.


MAYBE COUNTESS CROESUS REALLY IS A WEAK AND FRIGHTENED WOMAN FISHING FOR FRIENDS--
BUT FOR SOME REASON, ROGER FINDS IT HIGHLY UNLIKELY

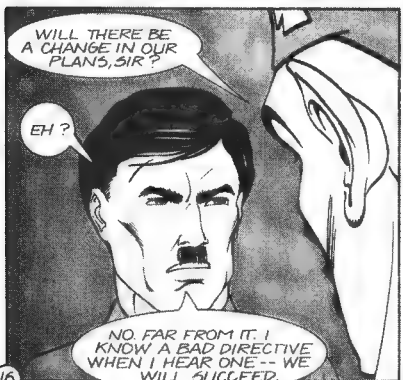
SKRITCH
OH! IT'S YOU.
I'M REALLY JUMPY
WHAT ARE WE DOING, CHIP? WHERE ARE WE GOING WITH OUR LIVES?
AT LEAST WE'VE GOT EACH OTHER, HUH?
THAT MUCH IS STILL GOOD.
MAYBE WE SHOULD CUT OUT ON OUR OWN AND HEAD DOWN TO MEXICO OR SOMETHING
I'M AFRAID HANGING WITH THESE GUYS IS GONNA GET US KILLED.



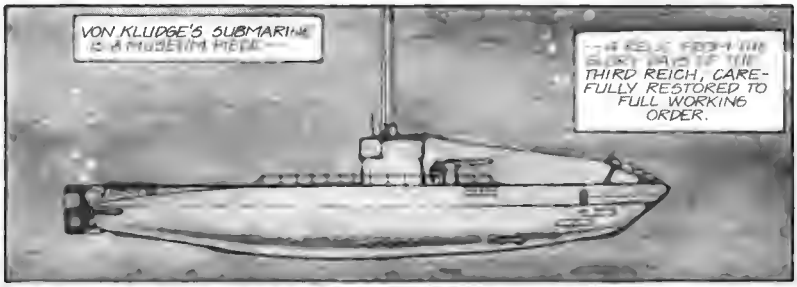

HMMMMM

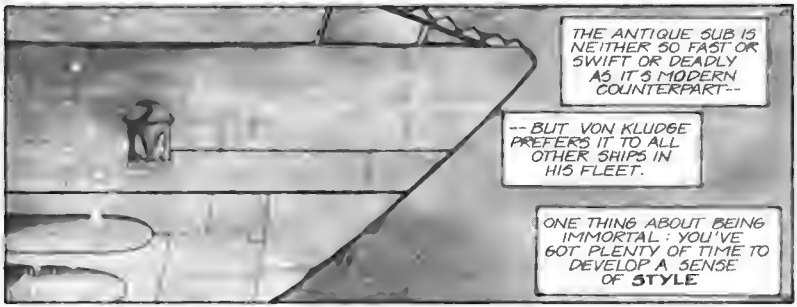
ARE THE STOSSTRUPEN READY ?
JAWHOL, FIELD MARSHAL

THERE IS A WOMAN ON THE BEACH WITH A BATTLEDOG
VIOLANTE DIDN'T TELL ME ABOUT THEM
I WONDER IF THERE'S ANYTHING ELSE OUR LOVELY LADY VISCONTI DIDN'T MENTION.

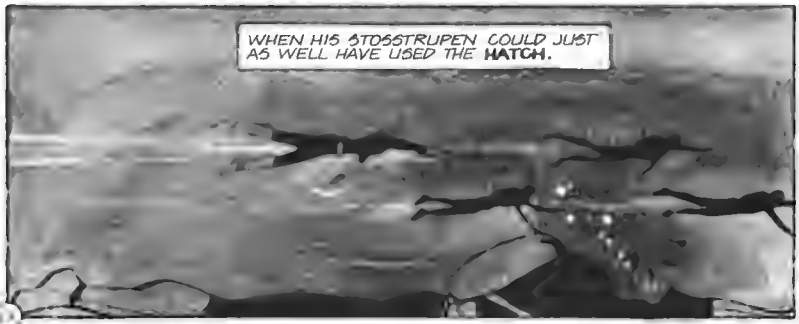

WILL THERE BE A CHANGE IN OUR PLANS, SIR ?
EH ?
NO. FAR FROM IT. I KNOW A BAD DIRECTIVE WHEN I HEAR ONE -- WE WILL SUCCEED.

THE TIME IS COME.


VON KLUDGE'S SUBMARINE IS A MUSEUM PIECE--
--A RELIC FROM THE EARLY DAYS OF THE THIRD REICH, CAREFULLY RESTORED TO FULL WORKING ORDER.


THE ANTIQUE SUB IS NEITHER SO FAST OR SWIFT OR DEADLY AS IT'S MODERN COUNTERPART--
--BUT VON KLUDGE PREFERS IT TO ALL OTHER SHIPS IN HIS FLEET.
ONE THING ABOUT BEING IMMORTAL: YOU'VE GOT PLENTY OF TIME TO DEVELOP A SENSE OF **STYLE**

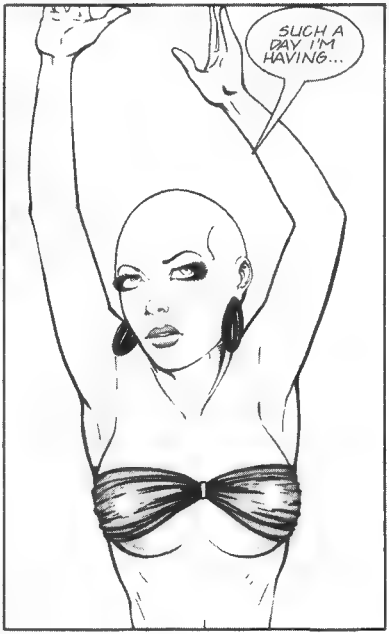
IT IS PERHAPS DUE TO THE SAME SENSE OF STYLE THAT VON KLUDGE ORDERS THE USE OF HIS TORPEDO TUBES--

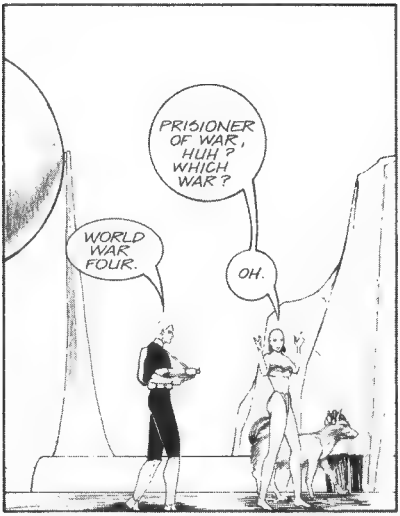

WHEN HIS STOSSTRUPEN COULD JUST AS WELL HAVE USED THE **HATCH.**

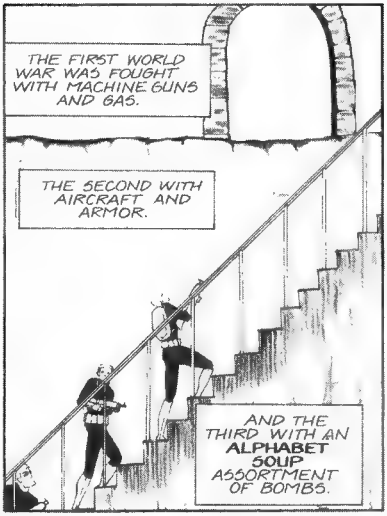
MAYBE TRYING TO PUT THINGS BACK TOGETHER AIN'T SUCH A GOOD IDEA-- AFTER ALL, IT WAS THE CIVILIZATION WE'RE TRYING TO RE-BUILD THAT LED US TO **THIS**.

NO HEROICS, FRAULEIN. YOU ARE A PRISONER OF WAR

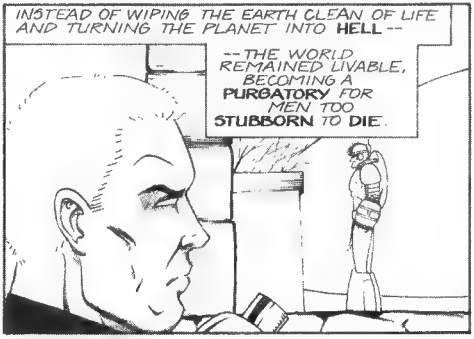
RRRRRRR
FORGET IT, BABE-- THEY GOT US NAILED.


SUCH A DAY I'M HAVING...


PRISIONER OF WAR, HUH? WHICH WAR?
WORLD WAR FOUR.
OH.

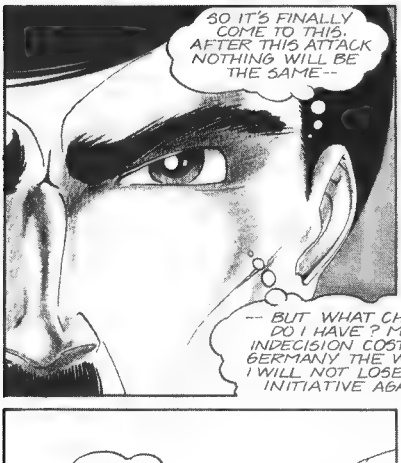

THE FIRST WORLD WAR WAS FOUGHT WITH MACHINE GUNS AND GAS.
THE SECOND WITH AIRCRAFT AND ARMOR.
AND THE THIRD WITH AN ALPHABET SOUP ASSORTMENT OF BOMBS.

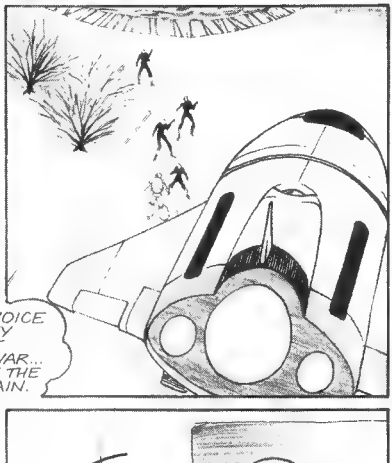
A 20TH CENTURY ADAGE SAID WORLD WAR FOUR WOULD BE FOUGHT WITH STICKS AND STONES.
THE ERRATIC SOPHISTICATION OF THESE 21ST CENTURY WARRIORS DOES NOT PROVE WORLD WAR THREE WAS A CAKEWALK--
--IF ANYTHING, IT WAS WORSE THAN ANTICIPATED.


INSTEAD OF WIPING THE EARTH CLEAN OF LIFE AND TURNING THE PLANET INTO HELL--
--THE WORLD REMAINED LIVABLE, BECOMING A PURGATORY FOR MEN TOO STUBBORN TO DIE.

IF THIS IS WORLD WAR FOUR, IT'S OBVIOUS IT WILL BE FOUGHT WITH MORE THAN STICKS AND STONES.
THE JURY'S STILL OUT ON WORLD WAR FIVE.

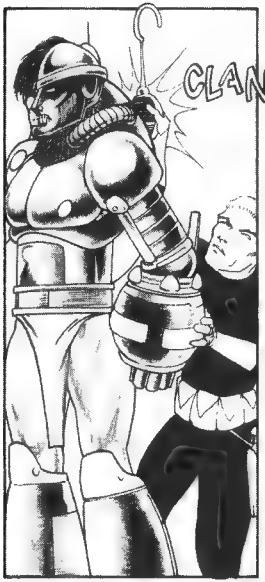
WE HAVE OUR TARGETS IN SIGHT. FIELD MARSHAL. ASIDE FROM THE WOMAN ON THE BEACH, THERE HAS BEEN NO SIGN OF RESISTANCE.
EXCELLENT, LIEUTENANT STEINER - BUT DO NOT ALLOW YOUR SUCCESS TO INTERFERE WITH CAUTION
SECURE THE OBJECTIVE AND WAIT FOR THE AUTOGIRO.

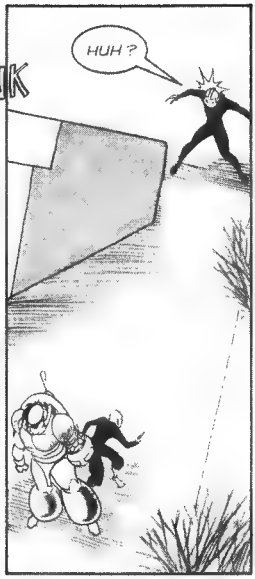

SO IT'S FINALLY COME TO THIS. AFTER THIS ATTACK NOTHING WILL BE THE SAME--
-- BUT WHAT CHOICE DO I HAVE ? MY INDECISION COST GERMANY THE WAR... I WILL NOT LOSE THE INITIATIVE AGAIN.



WHAT'S THIS ?

WHATEVER IT IS, IT AIN'T MY FIGHT.


CLANK


HUH?

BLAM BLAM BLAM

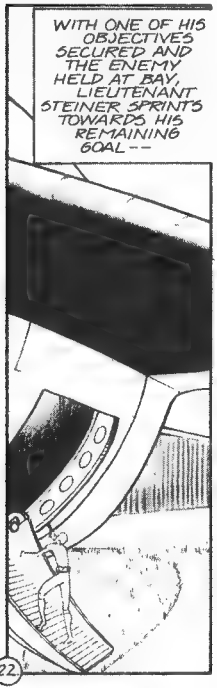
WE HAVE ENCOUNTERED THE ENEMY THE SITUATION IS SECURE--

"--BUT THE EXTENT OF FURTHER RESISTANCE IS UNKNOWN."
GUNFIRE?
BLAM BLAM BLAM
DAMN THEIR EYES... COMING AFTER ME NEXT!

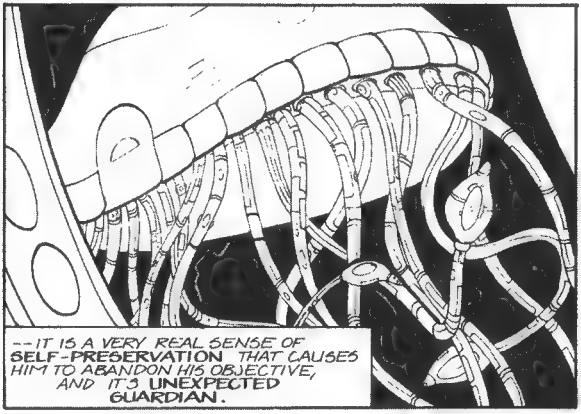
DON'T JUST STAND THERE YOU IDIOTS! FIGHT!

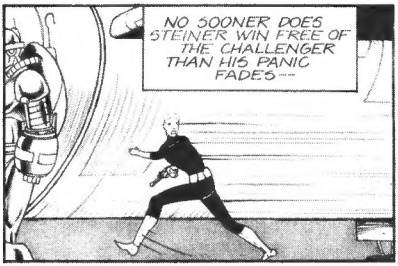
CROESUS' SERVANTS HASTEN TO OBEY THEIR MISTRESS' WISHES--

--BUT FIGHTING IS THE LEAST OF SEVERAL SERVICES THESE MUTE RETAINERS PROVIDE FOR THEIR COUNTESS.
AGAINST THE DRILLED MILITARY PRECISION OF FIELD MARSHEL VON KLUDGE'S STOSSTRUPEN-
-CROESUS' BOYS DON'T STAND A CHANCE.

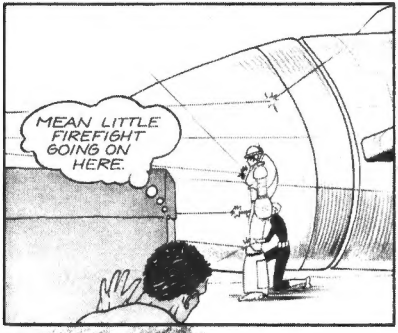

WITH ONE OF HIS OBJECTIVES SECURED AND THE ENEMY HELD AT BAY, LIEUTENANT STEINER SPRINTS TOWARDS HIS REMAINING GOAL--

MEIN GOTT...
--AND WHILE DUTY MOTIVATES THE FULLY PROFESSIONAL SOLDIER WHO ENTERS THE CHALLENGER II

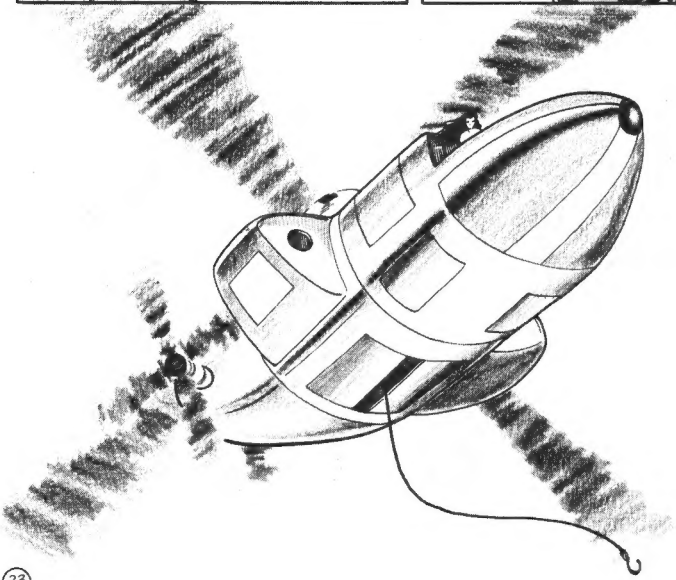

--IT IS A VERY REAL SENSE OF SELF-PRESERVATION THAT CAUSES HIM TO ABANDON HIS OBJECTIVE, AND IT'S UNEXPECTED GUARDIAN.


NO SOONER DOES STEINER WIN FREE OF THE CHALLENGER THAN HIS PANIC FADES--

-- REPLACED BY A GRIM SENSE OF DUTY. AND A GROWING ANXIETY OVER THE PROMISED ARRIVAL OF THE AUTOGIRO.


MEAN LITTLE FIREFIGHT GOING ON HERE.

MAKES FOR PRETTY GOOD VIEWING.
OH HO-- NOW THAT'S PRETTY NEAT.



TO LIEUTENANT STEINER, THE CABLE FROM THE AUTOGIRO SEEMS LIKE A LIFELINE --
--FOR AS SOON AS AT LEAST ONE OF THE OBJECTIVES ARE SECURED, HE AND HIS STOSSTRUPEN CAN WITHDRAW
STEINER IS A GOOD GERMAN HE THINKS ONLY OF HIS ORDERS--
HOWEVER FLAWED SAID ORDERS MIGHT BE.
AS A FRIEND OF MINE USED TO SAY--
"THE END JUSTIFIES THE MEANS."
BLAM BLAM BLAM
I LOVE THIS STUFF.
CLICK

NEXT ISSUE :

ENEMY OF MY ENEMY

King Spyder